

163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235. In addition, the soluble flt-3 ligand can be encoded by a polynucleotide sequence that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to, and is at least 80% identical to, a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to Yaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235. Examples of particularly preferred soluble human flt-3 ligands are soluble proteins that have the amino acid sequence of residues 28-163 of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence of residues 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:2 or the amino acid sequence of residues 28-188 of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence of residues 28-182 of SEQ ID NO:2.--

*In the claims:*

Please cancel claims 8-19 and 21.

Please add the following new claims:

22. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein the flt-3 ligand is soluble human flt-3 ligand.
23. (new) The method of claim 22 wherein the flt-3 ligand is soluble human flt-3 ligand.
24. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the soluble human flt-3 ligand is recombinant flt-3 ligand.
25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the soluble human flt-3 ligand has an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to, and is at least 80% identical to, a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to Yaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235.